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# Executive Summary



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Maryland. Governor's Task  
Force on Trees & Forests in  
Executive summary

The Governor's Task Force on  
Trees & Forests in Maryland

*November 1990*

ON JANUARY 11, 1990, GOVERNOR WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER  
contacted thirty-four individuals with an interest in and concern for the future  
of Maryland's trees and forests and asked them to serve on the  
GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON TREES & FORESTS IN MARYLAND.

# Executive Summary



The Governor's Task Force on  
Trees & Forests in Maryland

*November 1990*



WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER,  
Governor

*"The preservation of our trees and forests is essential in our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Our trees and forests provide natural habitat for wildlife as well as improve the overall air quality of our state.*

*As a result of my concern for the future of Maryland's forestry resources, and so that we may continue to enjoy the beauty of Maryland's countryside, I have requested that a statewide strategy be developed for the protection and enhancement of our forests."*

The members of the Governor's Task Force on Trees and Forests are diverse in background and experience.

They reflect the range of perspectives and concerns regarding the values and importance of trees and forests in Maryland, including state legislators, forestry professionals, forest industry employees, developers, educators, academicians and conservationists.

The Task Force members held eight meetings in Annapolis, Maryland from January through May 1990. All of the meetings were open to the general public.

Early in the Task Force's deliberations, the group solicited input from a number of individuals and organizations interested in trees and forests in Maryland. The Task Force also received support

from a number of technical working groups, comprised of volunteers with expertise in forestry and related fields.

A draft report was prepared and presented to several hundred participants at the Governor's Conference on Trees and Forests on May 21-22, 1990, in Annapolis, Maryland. Over seventy pages of public comment were received and incorporated as appropriate. The plan of action developed by the Task Force is summarized in this report.

As with all issues affecting Maryland's rich natural resource base, there are many divergent views regarding how Maryland's trees and forests should be dealt with in the future.

The Task Force was structured to reflect this diversity

— a feature that led to healthy debate regarding some elements of the final report and recommendations. For this reason, the reader should keep in mind that the substance and specific recommendations of this effort were based upon a consensus of the views of the members of the Governor's Task Force on Trees and Forests and are not intended to reflect the views of any specific member associated with the Task Force.

For further information about the content of this report or the findings and recommendations it contains, contact David Carroll, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, Office of the Governor, State of Maryland, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

**RECOMMENDATIONS BEGIN ON PAGE EIGHT**

## **SPECIFIC CHARGE OF THE TASK FORCE**

**ASSESS THE PROBLEMS & POTENTIAL OF  
MARYLAND'S TREES AND FORESTS;**

**IDENTIFY MEANS OF DEALING WITH THOSE  
PROBLEMS & CAPITALIZING ON EXISTING  
OPPORTUNITIES;**

**CHART A COURSE FOR PROMOTING GOOD LAND  
STEWARDSHIP AND PROTECTING MARYLAND'S  
TREES AND FORESTS TO HELP SHAPE A LEGACY OF  
A GREENER MARYLAND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

*"We must begin to recognize that in order for Maryland's forests to endure, they must be managed in a way that protects the forest ecosystem, biological diversity and all forest values."*

AJAX EASTMAN, President  
MARYLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

*"As the fifth largest industry in Maryland, employing 18,000 people, the Forest Products Business is directly dependent on our forest land base now and into the future. As stewards of the land, we are in it for the long term. After a harvest, we reinvest in the land to perpetuate forests. We care about the environment!"*

THOMAS TYLER, III, President  
MARYLAND FORESTS ASSOCIATION

# TREES, FORESTS, & THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Trees and forests contribute greatly to the quality of life that Marylanders have come to expect and enjoy.

## PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

Water quality is protected more by land held in forest than by any other land use.

Soil loss from healthy forests is negligible. Retention of forests became a major focus of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Program in recognition of the forest's ability to absorb runoff, filter out damaging nutrients and reduce other pollutants that might enter water



courses. Forests, particularly adjacent to reservoirs, streams and other waterways, provide a living filter that helps keep our waters clean and healthy.

## GUARANTEEING HOMES FOR WILD CREATURES

Trees and forests provide food, cover, clean water and a place for wild animals to live and reproduce.

Forests often have a multi-tiered structure with numerous canopy levels that allow for an abundance of forest dwelling creatures.

Streamside forests, called riparian zones, provide one of the major opportunities for birds and mammals to safely travel from one area of good (or declining) habitat to another. These streamside forests provide a net-

work of corridors that are particularly important for the survival of tropical birds migrating northward to nest. These areas, analogous to animal highways, also function as a means of escape when development encroaches.

Human activities, such as the clearing of forest land, the fragmenting of large blocks of forests, and the conversion of biologically-complex native forests to simpler forests, like planted pine, are increasingly eroding the diversity of forest ecosystems in many parts of the state.

Land use changes resulting from population growth will exacerbate this situation.



WILL BAKER, President  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*"We must become much more aggressive in our approach toward reforestation, both for our large commercial forest lands, as well as urban areas and sensitive watersheds."*







RON COUSAR,  
BALTIMORE CITY ARBORIST

*"Individual tree management is the basic concept of urban forestry; this intensity should be applied to the preservation and wise use of our forest."*

## BRINGING NATURE TO OUR CITIES

Trees become more important the further we are from the "backwoods".

Protecting urban trees is particularly important because they help to moderate temperatures in the midst of asphalt and concrete and reduce heating and cooling needs. Trees also control air pollution by trapping and holding dust and other airborne particles.

The traditional patch-shaped park performs valuable services in providing a place to recreate, a home for wildlife, and a pleasant view. Protecting small forested areas, connected by forested corridors, provides even greater benefits for man, wildlife and the forest itself. A trail system through such areas can provide scenic recreation and nature appreciation in the middle of suburban sprawl.

National surveys show that cities now have trees on only half of their potential planting sites. The total tree coverage in the average community is now thirty percent.

Opportunities to expand the potential benefits of our urban trees and forests are often lost to competing interests and other priorities. Safety is the immediate concern of city arborists and foresters, and the removal of potential hazards can be expected to outpace new plantings or maintenance of young trees unless steps are taken to change this trend. The average lifespan of an urban tree is 32 years. With good urban forestry programs, cities have increased the expected lifespan to nearly 60 years. Programs sponsored by state and Federal agencies and private foundations have helped to focus the

efforts of private citizens and local governments to improve urban trees and forests. Sixteen Maryland communities participated in the Tree City U.S.A. program, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in 1989.

## PROVIDING PRODUCTS ESSENTIAL TO OUR LIVES

Forest products is the fifth largest industry in Maryland, employing 18,000 people.

In Garrett and Allegany counties, it is the single largest employer, and on the Eastern Shore, it is the second largest.

Maryland's forest product businesses are composed of two major sectors — primary and secondary industries. The primary firms include 79 sawmills, 1 paper mill, 46 pulpwood operators, 179 logging companies, 260 firewood operators, 15 whole tree chippers and a number of veneer log brokers. The secondary firms include hundreds of companies involved in manufacturing furniture, cabinets and other various products used in homes and related businesses every day.

The pulp and paper industry provides a major market for Maryland's pulpwood and sawmill residue chips. Westvaco operates a paper mill and wood yard in Allegany county. Chesapeake Corporation and the Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company operate chip mills on the Eastern Shore. In-woods chipping operations utilize logging residues to provide chips for boiler fuel and sewage sludge processing.

In 1987, over 362 thousand tons of wood products were exported through the Port of Baltimore in the form of logs, lumber, wood pulp and wastepaper. The estimated value was over \$63 million.



KAY G. BIENEN  
MARYLAND BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

*"The building industry is committed to preserving the environment through Best Management Practices for Development; saving trees enhances both the value of our finished product and the quality of life for our customers."*

# MARYLAND'S DECLINING FOREST & TREE RESOURCES

The loss of forest land is occurring precisely where forests are needed most — in the populated areas of the state.

Fragmentation of the forests — reduction of average forest size — is a tragic problem.

The broken pattern of isolated woodlots and fencerows, which results from many types of conversions of forest land, has an impact on the movement of wildlife and dispersal of plant seed and can result in changes in plant and animal populations. In addition, developed uses such as highways and dense residential development are also significant barriers between remaining forested areas.

Trees and forests have always been a significant part of the Maryland landscape. Prior to the arrival of European colonists,

Maryland is believed to have been 90 percent forested.

Piece by piece the land was transformed from an extensively covered and predominantly forested community to a terrain of cultivated fields, pasture, homesites, towns and seaports.

As surprising as it may seem, Maryland now has about the same amount of forested acres as in 1900. But we are losing them at a rapid rate. It is projected that through the 1990's and on to 2020, Maryland is likely to lose at least 10,000 acres of forest land per year.

Development is consuming increasingly higher proportions of land throughout the State, although this trend is most obvious in the counties surrounding Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Western Maryland continues to be

mostly forested (about 75 percent), whereas urbanizing counties are now down to 27 to 35 percent forest cover.

The influence of development on the use of forests extends well beyond the immediate areas cleared for houses, utilities and roads. As people move into forested areas, conflicts over forest land use grow. For many residents of developing areas, the value of the forest has shifted from commercial (wood products) to environmental and aesthetic benefits. This has, in part, caused the amount of forest land available for commercial harvesting to decrease.

Damage caused by insects and disease also takes its toll. Since 1982, nearly one-half million acres of Maryland woodlands have



ANN PESIRI SWANSON,  
Executive Director,  
CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

*"Quite frankly, the state has no comprehensive strategy to protect its remaining forest resources. We are losing our forests at roughly 6,000 acres each year. Without effective strategies, we will continue to lose our forests . . . and with that loss will come a water quality decline."*





GARY TAYLOR, Director  
WILDLIFE DIVISION, MARYLAND  
FOREST, PARK & WILDLIFE SERVICE

*"The future of our wildlife resources in Maryland will depend a great degree on our forest. The Governor's Conference on Trees and Forests is a catalyst to forge new and enhanced partnerships between private landowners, conservation organizations, and industry and government, to ensure the future integrity of forest ecosystems in Maryland, and the vital role that they play in supporting the magnificent diversity of wildlife found in Maryland."*

suffered either moderate or heavy gypsy moth defoliations. Gypsy moth defoliations have killed an estimated 428 million board feet of oak timber. Other insect pests can affect Maryland's forests and have the potential to cause considerable loss in growth and productivity of existing trees.

In the future, the lands that are likely to be least impacted by the effects of fragmentation are

those large forest tracts where the landowner is committed to sustaining the forest. Many organizations own, manage or influence large areas of forest. They include the public agencies that manage forests, parks and resource management areas; the forest products industry; land trusts; and private conservation groups. The commitment of these organizations is crucial for conserving some

features of the forest resources in the state.

State and local governments have attempted to conserve forests and trees. However, current programs and regulations (county, state and Federal) generally do not deal adequately with the need to conserve forest land, either to maintain areas for timber production or to conserve ecologically significant areas.



MARSHALL STACY  
MARYLAND TREE FARMER

*"A forest is under constant stress from its inception through its entire life expectancy. Competition for limited amounts of sunlight, water and nutrients among individual trees in a forest, as well as climatic cycles and ravages of insect and disease epidemics, are all natural stresses on our forests... Man has introduced air pollution and its resultant acid rain, which further stress the forest and further compound all the other natural stresses."*

*If we want our forests to continue to cleanse the air, restore our water quality and convert CO<sub>2</sub> into the oxygen we need to survive, we must help relieve some of the stresses imposed on our forests through modern management techniques. A managed forest is a healthier forest — better equipped to cope with the continual stresses thrust upon it and thus able to produce essential benefits to man including everything from helping to reverse the Greenhouse Effect to simply allowing man to breathe easier."*

Trees in cities and their suburbs have suffered as well. National data shows that the early 1980s were a period where many more trees were removed than planted. Even with recent increases, most cities now have trees on only one-half of their potential planting sites. Limited support for urban forestry research, management and education programs have strained the ability of cities to cope with their declining trees and forests.

Forest land which can produce logs and pulp to support the forest products industry is disappearing at a rapid rate. Aside from changes in land use, there are tree losses due to gypsy moth, management of lands solely for nontimber uses such as recreation, and changing management strategies for state lands, which have reduced the amount of forests available for wood products. With these trends, some have questioned if there will be enough timber in the future to maintain a forest products industry in Maryland.

Of Maryland's 2.7 million acres of forests, approximately 2.4 million, or 90 percent, are capable of producing timber for commercial use. However, the state-wide distribution of this resource varies widely, ranging from 71 percent of the land area in Garrett county to 20 percent in Montgomery County. There are nearly 96,000 private forest landowners in Maryland. Fifty-five percent of them own woodlots of less than 10 acres in size.

The quality of Maryland's forests suffer today as a result of poor logging practices of the past.

As a result of many years of high-grading — removing only the highest grade trees and leaving the poor quality and cull trees to grow and reproduce — most of Maryland's sawtimber trees are of poor quality.

Clearly, population growth, urban expansion, insects and disease, increasing regulation of

private forestry activities, past abuse of forest land, and reduced funding for existing forest management, research, and education programs will place increased demands on Maryland's remaining trees and forest lands for meeting future commodity and non-commodity purposes. It is equally clear that existing land use management and planning mechanisms are inadequate to

address the present and potential loss of forest lands and associated benefits that will result.

The lack of a clear set of goals and objectives for the future of Maryland's trees and forests will exacerbate this situation and foster the development of individual solutions to problems that might be better addressed in a more comprehensive and coordinated manner.

## **SPECIFICALLY,**

### **CLEARING OF TREES & FORESTS WILL:**

- **Increase the potential for soil erosion and siltation, thus reducing water quality in affected areas;**
- **Increase heating and cooling needs in cities and suburbs;**
- **Reduce air quality benefits associated with trees and forests;**
- **Reduce the aesthetic and economic values of communities, neighborhoods and individual homes;**
- **Limit the ability to assure a sustained supply of wood and fiber for dependent industries;**
- **Reduce investments by businesses and individuals who have a stake in the forest products or an interest in the quality-of-life benefits of Maryland's trees and forests;**
- **Reduce biodiversity;**
- **Limit the amount and quality of available wildlife habitat;**
- **Reduce the ability of forests within the State to offset global warming through reduction of carbon dioxide.**

## STRATEGIES

### HALTING THE DECLINE OF TREES & FORESTS

**C**urrent efforts to curb Maryland's forest losses are insufficient.

Tree planting, reforestation and afforestation efforts are not adequate in scope, funding or coordination to take advantage of the opportunities which exist to increase Maryland's tree resources. Significant additional opportunities exist to plant new trees and add to the forest land base.

Maryland currently has no comprehensive strategy to protect its remaining forest resources, and no statewide strategy to direct growth and public facility locations, such as highways. Without such a strategy,

Maryland is likely to experience a further loss of forest land and its associated benefits.

In addition, the conversion of forest land to other uses has occurred in spatial patterns that fragment the remaining forest lands. The combination of continued forest land loss and fragmentation has generated new concern for the decline in the biological diversity of our

remaining forest lands. Currently, 41 percent of state public lands are located in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties — counties which are geographically remote from the six most densely populated Maryland counties. The distance of these lands from the majority of the State's population denies citizens easy access to the aesthetic and educational advantages that these forests provide.



#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 1

- ➡ Establish a statewide, comprehensive growth management strategy with a strong forest resource protection and management component that is developed cooperatively by state and local governments and implemented at the local level.

A comprehensive effort by state and local governments to coordinate forest resource management can provide Maryland's citizens the maximum economic and ecological benefits from forests. Such a strategy should seek to ensure the conservation of Maryland's forests, to restore disturbed forest land, to protect the State's water and soil resources, to protect the habitat of forest-dependent wildlife, and to assure the continuation of long-term, sustainable uses that conserve the ecological functions of forests.

New funding for water and wastewater facilities, utilities, and roads should be targeted to designated growth areas to encourage the location of future development in these areas. State and local governments should impose severe restrictions or disincentives for any new development in areas outside of growth areas, thereby providing for the protection of the forest resources. Within the growth areas, tree protection ordinances would minimize clearing of forested areas and require the planting of trees to replace those lost to development.

## STRATEGIES

### HALTING THE DECLINE OF TREES & FORESTS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 2



- Establish a Governor's Executive Committee on Trees and Forests responsible for implementing the Task Force Recommendations, promoting a continuing tree and forestry dialogue, identifying emerging forestry and related issues, and recommending special initiatives and improvement in existing policies and programs to the Governor.

The Executive Committee, composed of a balanced mix of agency representatives and interested private citizens, would promote and facilitate cooperation among resource managers, industry, interest groups and individuals by identifying questions, concerns and issues; recommending priorities; defining and promoting research needs; and fostering information exchange.

This dialogue could help to develop and implement reasonable and effective solutions to identified problems and provide guidance to the professional community concerning necessary changes in forestry to meet the changing needs of the future forest users.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 3

- Coordinate reforestation and tree planting programs, and enforce the Maryland Seed Tree Law, to minimize forest fragmentation, maintain large forested tracts and maximize long-term forest productivity, while taking into account such concerns as biodiversity.

Statewide emphasis on tree planting and reforestation would create opportunities to both improve existing forest cover and increase the land area dedicated to trees and open space. More effective use of existing cost-share programs to promote private tree planting and stricter enforcement and monitoring of reforestation laws would aid in meeting this objective.

## STRATEGIES

### HALTING THE DECLINE OF TREES & FORESTS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 4

- Expand and enhance state and local urban forestry programs to assist metropolitan counties and communities in developing their own urban forestry programs.

These programs can help to stem the decline in existing trees and forested areas in cities and suburbs and enhance efforts to restore trees in the urban landscape. Considering trees in the design of future urban areas and encouraging the retention, maintenance, and planting of trees, can greatly enhance the quality of urban life in Maryland. Added funding for urban forestry programs and workshops for developers, landowners, and the public would aid in these efforts.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 5

- Target state efforts to: purchase additional forest lands in rapidly developing areas by utilizing such funding sources as Program Open Space; promote donations of conservation easements to protect existing woodlands; and provide incentives and encourage local efforts to regulate activities that impact trees and forests in urban, suburban and rural areas.

State forest land acquisition should seek to preserve examples of old, mature forests and establish new forests that are readily accessible to urban populations. Local land use regulations should discourage and penalize land use which causes undue forest fragmentation or the cleaning of ecologically valuable forested areas, such as those acting as stream buffers or wildlife corridors.

Program Open Space funds should be earmarked for use in purchasing forested lands or development rights, and state conservation easement programs and local land trust efforts should place greater emphasis on protection of forested areas.





## STRATEGIES

### HALTING THE DECLINE OF TREES & FORESTS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 6

- ➡ Establish a Maryland Forest Research Program and a comprehensive, statewide, accessible natural resources data base for use in the development of the state-wide growth management strategy and forest management plans.

Developing a central repository for information on Maryland's trees and forest resources and a research program to coordinate forestry research among Maryland's colleges and universities would aid in supporting future planning efforts.

Toward this end, a panel of forestry experts should be charged to determine Maryland's forestry data needs and develop the framework for data collection, storage, and dissemination.



#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 7

- ➡ Adopt a statewide tree and forest conservation, protection and reforestation law that provides for local implementation.



A state law should be established that requires the preservation of the forest land base and the conservation of the forest resources and specifies ways that local jurisdictions can satisfy that mandate. In response, local jurisdictions should adopt strong tree and forest protection ordinances, incorporating strict site design review and after-development inspections to protect trees, forests and the functions of ecosystems during development.



## STRATEGIES

### IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF TREES & FORESTS

Most Maryland residents fail to understand the value of trees and forests to the quality of life.

As a result, Marylanders fail to appreciate the effects of loss of forest land and poor stewardship of forests. In addition, many of the conflicts involving forestry today can be traced to a lack of understanding of basic forestry terminology, concepts and

objectives. A variety of environmental education efforts are underway in schools across the State. However, little or no coordination exists to insure a base level of technical coverage nor a defined scope of topics to be shared with Maryland's youth.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 8

- Establish a subcommittee of the Governor's Executive Committee on Trees and Forests to assess and monitor existing information and education programs and consult with the Departments of Education and Natural Resources and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service to advocate new initiatives to ensure improved public understanding of the important role of trees and forests.

The primary role of this subcommittee should be to promote and coordinate environmental and natural resources education in the State. Composed of representatives of agencies responsible for environmental education in the State, the subcommittee should be directed to develop and promote programs to enhance public understanding of the importance of trees and forests in Maryland.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 9

- Provide adult educational opportunities for citizens, legislators, government officials, resource professionals and researchers regarding the values of trees and forests.

A better understanding of forest resources management is necessary for woodland owners, urban audiences, legislators and other groups. Programs specifically designed to aid these audiences in understanding the values of trees and forests should be developed.

## STRATEGIES

### IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF TREES & FORESTS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 10

- Provide children in kindergarten through high school and their teachers with materials, expertise, and meaningful experiences to ensure their understanding of the values of forests and trees.

Training of teachers to utilize appropriate curricula and supporting materials would give them confidence to develop lessons that promote "forest literacy" among the students.



A Natural Resources Camp for high school students would strengthen their desire to enter these natural resource areas to give greater leadership back to the State of Maryland as they pursue their careers.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 11

- Establish a network of visible, accessible forest demonstration areas throughout Maryland which exhibit the benefits of forest resources and various forms of management.



Demonstration areas should focus on the wide variety of forest uses, including silvicultural practices, biodiversity, urban forestry, water quality, wildlife and plant and aquatic habitat.

## STRATEGIES

### IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF TREES & FORESTS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 12

- ⇒ Enhance the abilities of forestry professionals to interact with the public and other professions affecting forest resources.



Foresters should have skills necessary to work more effectively with the diverse groups that are interested in forest resources. Some training in this area should be a requirement for professional licensing.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 13



- ⇒ Develop and provide a competitive salary structure and benefits package for employees of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources -Forest, Park, and Wildlife Service to attract and retain high-quality professional employees, especially in high-cost metropolitan areas.

Competitive salaries would increase employee retention and attract higher caliber candidates for positions. Greater employee retention would reduce the need for — and costs associated with — training new personnel.

## STRATEGIES

### IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF TREES & FORESTS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 14

- ➡ Encourage the development of new plans and strategies for the public forest lands, and ensure that these are the product of citizen involvement and interdisciplinary professional judgement.

These plans should include explicit objectives, goals and functional strategies that describe how those goals and objectives will be achieved. The plans need to be specific for each forest but also consistent with regional and statewide goals.

The DNR Forest, Park and Wildlife Service should involve citizens in the development of resource management plans, placing emphasis on sustaining forest ecosystems and preserving the biological diversity of forest lands through management strategies that address forest fragmentation, old growth protection, Natural Heritage Areas, wildlands management, recreation, wildlife, timber production, and uses of adjacent lands.



## STRATEGIES

### PRESERVING FOREST-RELATED BUSINESS

There is an urgent need to assess the role that forest-related businesses will offer to the future of Maryland's economy. A lack of vision hinders the development of programs to provide a sustained supply of wood and fiber products from the forests.

Investment opportunities for forest related businesses will become less attractive, and landowners wanting to manage their woodlots for timber or pulp production may be required to consider other investment opportunities which do not involve preservation of the forest.

Poor implementation of government regulations, policies and programs have been a hindrance to effective forestry

practices and can reduce the economic value of forests for commercial purposes. As a result, Maryland landowners face an uncertain economic future and may be deprived of expected forest-related income due to these encumbrances.

There are many regulations that affect forestry operations in Maryland. Knowledge of all these regulations is scattered among agencies and individuals across the State. A clearing-house with up-to-date information on regulations

affecting forest operations would help to simplify the regulatory maze that currently exists.

The permitting process for harvesting timber often requires so many steps that long delays are now common, resulting in

serious problems for loggers and landowners. There is a wide range in the level of "people skills" of regulatory field staff. The result can be undue and avoidable friction and delay.

Currently, on a state and county basis, a landowner's right to practice forestry is being threatened. Protecting forest landowners' ability to practice forestry will encourage them to properly manage their forests and keep productive land in trees.



## RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 15

- Standardize the approval, monitoring and enforcement procedures of the Sediment Control Plan across the State and establish detailed Best Management Practices specifically for tree harvesting and other forestry activities.

If the Sediment Control Plan procedures are uniform for each county of the State, then reduced erosion and sedimentation can be more easily realized.

Consistency in approval processes and enforcement is important. It must be as simple as possible for the landowner and logging contractor to follow the established guidelines.

## STRATEGIES PRESERVING FOREST-RELATED BUSINESS

### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 16

- ➡ Establish a regulation clearing-house to provide information to the forest products industry about regulations that apply to them and provide feedback to regulatory agencies about how processes can be improved.

Establish an office within the DNR - Forest, Park and Wildlife Service that would serve as the lead in assimilating relevant regulations and permitting procedures that impact the forest products industry. This lead agency will then work with the different levels of government and different agencies to increase the efficiency of implementing those regulations. This clearing-house could serve as a "one-stop-shop" for information concerning forestry regulations and permit requirements.

### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 17

- ➡ Improve the permitting process for forest management, including tree harvesting, to provide permits which would be valid for the life of the contract, not to exceed 3 years.



This would eliminate unnecessary permit processing for regulatory agencies by approving all these operations at once rather than individually. Also, this would encourage advance planning for management activities, which is important when working in sensitive areas.



## STRATEGIES PRESERVING FOREST-RELATED BUSINESS



### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 18

- Provide loggers with information on good forest management practices, including Best Management Practices for meeting water quality requirements.

Developing a better working relationship between loggers, landowners, and foresters will aid in promoting more environmentally-sensitive forestry. An educational program for loggers to improve their understanding of forest management objectives, logging safety, and the environmental effects of timber harvesting is recommended. One element of this program should be to recognize and reward those loggers who operate in a safe and environmentally-sound manner.

### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 19

- Enact legislation to protect landowner rights to engage in multiple-use forest management.



A Right to Practice Forestry bill will insure the landowners' right to conduct proper forest management practices on their land as recommended within a required forest management plan, prepared by a Registered Professional Forester.

## STRATEGIES

### PRESERVING FOREST-RELATED BUSINESS

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 20

- ➡ Establish Forest Enterprise Zones in appropriate areas of Maryland, and promote the use of conservation easements, transferable development rights and other land protection tools to maintain a sufficient forest land base in these zones to sustain the forest products industry.

Forest Enterprise Zones would be established according to the Statewide Growth Management Strategy, referenced in Recommendation Number 1. This classification would be determined by the amount of forest land necessary for the forest industry to operate within an area and the potential for secondary manufacturing of the wood products which result.

#### RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 21

- ➡ Establish a comprehensive forest land management planning program for private landowners.

This program would facilitate management and harvest activities on private lands by requiring all permits and reviews for the management of the property to be done as a part of the process of approving the plan.

The comprehensive forest land management plan should include prescribed management and harvesting techniques, and identify all environmentally sensitive areas such as those lands in the Critical Area, heritage areas, wetlands, stream crossings and buffer management areas. The forest management plan, written by a Registered Professional Forester and consistent with Federal, state and local laws, would serve as the blueprint for forestry activities on private forest lands.



The Governor's Task Force has provided a framework for varied interests to agree on *actions*. The united effort is an outstanding foundation and significant step toward protecting our forests resources, enhancing our quality of life, and preserving economic opportunities associated with trees and forests in Maryland.

Individual efforts are extremely important to the successful completion of the Task Force's objectives. Please get behind and support the recommendations provided in this document.



SAM DYKE  
GLATFELTER PULPWOOD COMPANY  
2020 COMMISSION

*"The Governor's Conference on trees and forests affords all of us, concerned about the future of our forest resource, a unique opportunity to develop an action plan to provide future direction. It is time that the environmentalists versus foresters mentality shift to one of alliance in addressing the bigger issue — our declining forestland base."*

## TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

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*Chesapeake Bay Coordinator,  
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